technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/ HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public-Sector OMCs.

5. **Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines:** The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. **Jan Kerosene Pariyojna:** To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.

7. **Smart Card Scheme:** With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementations of the Pilot.

**Promotion of Bio-diesel**

†216. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to promote Bio-diesel;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the efforts made by Government during the last one year to motivate farmers to produce Jatropha and 'Karanjia' for Bio-diesel; and

(b) the amount Government spent for the import of raw-material used in production of Bio-diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel, being set up with a focus on large-scale cultivation of Jatropha. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the National Mission on Bio-diesel has been submitted by that Ministry to the Planning Commission. This proposal *inter-alia,* envisages, a Demonstration Project involving plantation of Jatropha in 4 lakh hectares of degraded forest and non-forest lands for manufacturing Bio-diesel. The Planning Commission has given 'in principle' approval to the DPR for the demonstration phase, estimated to cost Rs. 1286 crores over a period of 5 years. The Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs. 49 crores to the nine States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan for raising Jatropha seedlings in nurseries. To encourage production of Bio-diesel in the country, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, in October 2005, effective 1.1.2006. The Policy has identified 20 purchase centres of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) all over the country. The OMCs would purchase Bio-diesel meeting the standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), from those Bio-diesel manufacturers who register with them after satisfying the technical specifications, at a specified delivered price. Depending upon felt need and preparedness, the OMCs could also open more purchase centres. The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), an organization under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has opened a National Bio-fuel Centre, which disseminates information related to bio-diesel.

(c) The Government has not spent any amount for the import of raw material used in production.